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Division of Employment Security
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It is listed in the telephone
directory under Employment
Security Division – State of
Missouri.

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Unemployment Insurance Facts



Missouri Department of Labor
and Industrial Relations
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FACTS

1. Effective January 1, 2009 the taxable wage base will be \$12,500.
2. The average tax rates for Missouri employers for the current and preceding calendar years are as follows:

		All Accounts	Credit Balance	Debit Balance
1999		1.38%	1.18%	5.25%
2000	Includes 7% decrease of rate	1.231%	1.033%	4.841%
2001		1.353%	1.130%	5.164%
2002	Includes 10% increase on rate	1.503%	1.222%	5.595%
2003	Includes 30% increase on rate	1.891%	1.463%	6.671%
2004	Includes 30% increase on rate	1.971%	1.492%	6.709%
2005	Includes 30% increase on rate*	2.087%	1.529%	7.105%
2006	Includes 30% increase on rate*	2.178%	1.712%	7.252%
2007	Includes 30% increase on rate*	2.196%	1.800%	7.150%
2008	Includes 30% increase on rate*	2.159%	1.814%	6.885%
2009	Includes 30% increase on rate*	2.029%	1.686%	7.106%

*Employers who were at the maximum rate for the prior two consecutive years include an additional surcharge of one-quarter percent. In the event the employer remained at the maximum rate for subsequent years, an additional surcharge of one-quarter percent was added to their annual rate until the additional surcharge totaled one percent. If the employer remained at the maximum rate, a surcharge of one-half percent was added. The total surcharge will not exceed one and one-half percent.

3. The Federal Unemployment Tax Act rate is 6.2% of the first \$7,000 paid to covered workers. Because Missouri has an approved unemployment insurance law, employers receive a credit of 5.4% making the federal rate .8%.
4. A new employer is required to pay 2.7% or its industry average rate, whichever is higher, plus applicable increases/decreases for two calendar years before it is eligible for assignment of a rate based on individual experience. An exception to this is the rate for a Shared Work employer. Certain employers such as governmental entities or nonprofit organizations with specific Internal Revenue exemptions from F.U.T.A. may elect to reimburse the unemployment insurance fund for benefits paid to their employees in lieu of paying contributions. If this option is not chosen they are assigned a rate of 1% which may be increased or decreased based on the reserve fund balance.
5. About 97.5% of nonagricultural wage and salary workers in Missouri are covered by the unemployment insurance program. Those not covered include railroad and federal government workers (who are covered under separate programs), some domestic workers, and some workers employed in family businesses.
6. Total amount of unemployment insurance benefits paid in Missouri in fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was \$470,379,000.
7. The average weekly wage in covered employment in Missouri in fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was \$735.73.
8. The 2008 maximum benefit amount under the Missouri Unemployment Insurance Law was \$320 per week for maximum duration of 26 weeks. The average benefit amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was \$233.56 with an average duration of 13.8 weeks. The maximum weekly benefit amount for 2009 is \$320.
9. During fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, 31.2% of claimants exhausted the total benefit amount of their claim.
10. Total overpayments established in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was \$11,005,247. During this fiscal year the Division recovered \$8,157,798 or approximately 74.1% of the amount established.
11. The number of claims denied during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 by issue:

All Benefit Programs

Voluntary quit	32,829
Refusal of suitable work.....	840
Not able or available for work	42,702
Discharge for misconduct	29,475
Other	47,057
Total	152,903